

11-12-9 & 5

## Looking at Post-Secondary Options

<b>Grade Level</b>	Twelfth
<b>Minimum Time Required</b>	30 Minutes
<b>Materials/Resources</b>	Handouts
<b>Subject Area(s)</b>	Guidance

### Project Description:

1. This lesson should be completed prior to students attending post-high planning days. Students will be able to identify the differences between types of post-secondary schools, as well as the programs they offer.
2. Distribute the handout "What is Your Career Path?" and discuss with students. Have them also complete the worksheet on College Planning Days

<b>Career Development Standard</b>	Skills in career planning.
<b>Career Development Indicator</b>	Demonstrate knowledge of post-secondary occupational and academic programs.
<b>Delivery Level</b>	Review
<b>Academic Standards</b>	
<b>Language Arts</b>	1.1.c use prior knowledge and experience to interpret, evaluate, and construct meaning from various texts. 1.4.c compile and synthesize information to make reasonable and informed decisions.
<b>Employability/SCANS Skills</b>	Thinking Skills Basic Skills
<b>Assessment/Rubric</b>	Students will be evaluated the completed worksheet.



## **Post-Secondary Options**

Most careers require at least some education or training beyond high school. One career may require four years of college while another may require a nine-month program at a technical school. In most cases, your career choice will determine which of the following options is the most appropriate:

Two-Year Colleges

Career and Technical Colleges

Four-Year Colleges/Universities

Military

Apprenticeships .

Employment

### **Two-Year Colleges**

Two-year colleges provide affordable, career oriented programs, which enable students to begin their careers after only one or two years of college. Typically, class sizes are kept small and professors have worked, or are working, in a related career field. Students completing one-year programs receive certificates or diplomas, and students completing two-year programs earn associate degrees. Degrees that may be obtained include A.A.-Associate of Arts, A.S.-Associate of Science, and A.A.S.-Associate of Applied Science.

Students may also start their education at a two-year college, and then transfer to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree. Schedule a campus visit to learn more about their programs and facilities.

### **Career and Technical Colleges**

Career and technical colleges offer students short-term training in a wide variety of career fields. Career and technical colleges may be privately owned, and the programs they offer vary greatly. Some career and technical college programs last only a few weeks, while others take up to two years to complete.

These programs are designed to prepare students for specific careers. Students therefore spend most of their class time in job-related settings where they receive hands-on training from experienced instructors. Degrees that may be obtained include diploma, certification, A.A.-Associate of Arts, A.S.-Associate of Science, and A.A.S.-Associate of Applied Science.

### **Four-Year Colleges/Universities**

A four-year college education, or bachelor's degree, is necessary for approximately 20% of today's careers. A bachelor's degree can open doors, provide status, and prepare students for financially rewarding careers. All colleges and universities hope to attract bright, well-prepared students. Colleges and universities vary greatly in their majors offered, admission policies, and costs.



Four-year colleges and universities want students to have both a broad-based education, and education in a specific subject area or major. In order to insure that students receive a well-rounded education, most four-year colleges and universities require that students take 25-50% of their classes in general education courses like English, math, science, and history. Since many of the general education courses are taken during freshman year, "undecided" students can use their first year of college to fulfill general education requirements and to decide on a major.

Entrance requirements vary greatly. Colleges and universities that have an open admission policy will accept most high school graduates who apply. At the other end of the spectrum are colleges and universities that are highly selective. In order to be accepted at a highly selective college or university, a student must usually have high ACT/SAT scores and a high GPA. Regardless of the entrance requirements, all colleges and universities want applicants who have followed a college prep program in high school. This generally includes four years of English, three years of math (including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II), three years of science, three years of social studies, two years of the same world/foreign language, and one year of fine arts. If a student has not taken all of these courses, it does not mean that he/she cannot go to a four-year college or university. Consult with the admissions counselor for more information.

The student who has not taken several of the recommended college preparatory courses may want to start at a two-year college, then transfer to a four-year college after a year or two. Students may also start off at a four-year college or university's branch campus where the admission requirements are less competitive, classes are smaller, and where there is less academic pressure. Students can attend the branch campus for one or two years, then, if they have high enough grades, transfer to the college's or university's main campus. Degrees from a four-year college include a B.A.-Bachelors of Arts or a B.S.-Bachelors of Science. After a bachelors degree, some advanced degrees include: M.A.-Masters of Arts, M.S.-Masters of Science, Ed.D.-Doctor of Education, Ph.D.-Doctor of Philosophy, J.D.-Juris Doctor (lawyer), and M.D.-Medical Doctor.

## **Military**

The military trains young men and women so that they can protect the interests of our country. In order to do this, the military offers qualified high school graduates a good salary and free job training. The military also provides discipline and structure, as well as opportunities for career advancement and travel. The United States military is the nation's single largest employer. It offers training and employment in over 2,000 job specialties, 75% of which have civilian counterparts.

There are four major branches of the military: the Army, Navy, Air Force, and



Marines. Opportunities for students also exist in the Coast Guard, the National Guard and the Reserves. College students who take ROTC will enter the military as officers, while academically gifted students will find excellent educational opportunities at the four military academies.

### **Apprenticeships**

Students who prefer a hands-on approach to learning may want to consider an apprenticeship program. Apprentices learn a skilled trade through a combination of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Apprenticeship programs are considered by many to be the best way to receive training in the skilled trades.

Apprentices receive on-the-job training and classroom instruction. Apprenticeships are agreements in which employers pay individuals while they are learning their trade or profession. Apprenticeship programs demand hard work and dedication. Those who receive their training through apprenticeship programs are provided with power and opportunities for advancement. Contact your career counselor for more information.

### **Employment**

Employment is an appropriate option for some high school graduates. Turn a job into a career. High school graduates with no vocational training will probably find that they have limited career options. In many cases they will find that they are, in reality, not entering a career field as much as they are "getting a job". In most cases they will also find that they will not be making much more than minimum wage, and opportunities for advancement will be very limited.

On the other hand, business and industry are always anxious to find employees who are hard working, polite, punctual, well-groomed, willing to learn, and able to get along well with others. Of course, if a student has a particular talent or skill in sales, art, computer, etc., he/she can be very valuable to an employer. Contact your career counselor for more information.



## **PLANNING DAYS QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. List three post-secondary representatives visited with during planning days.
  
2. From each representative get the following information:
  - A. Major/minor interested in
  
  - B. Tuition/fees/books/housing costs
  
  - C. Placement opportunities
  
  - D. Student/teacher ratio's
  
  - E. On/off campus housing
  
  - F. Scholarship information
  
  - G. Internship opportunities



## POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

